

**Teresa Tenbrink**



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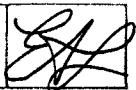
**From:** Cheryl Gower <chergow29@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 6:45 PM  
**To:** Stump-Web  
**Cc:** Pierce-Web; Burns-Web; BitterSmith-Web; RBurns-Web  
**Subject:** Epcor Rate Increase

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**ORIGINAL**

Dear Chairman Stump and Commissioners Ms. Burns, Mr. Pierce, Ms. Bitter-Smith and Mr. Robt. Burns:

Here we go again. Same song, second verse. A couple years ago Arizona American Water sent out a letter notifying their customers of a necessary rate increase. Mind you, AAW was only for our waste water treatment; our fresh water is from Utilities, Inc. AAW's reason for a rate hike was to double the treatment plant in size to be prepared for the upcoming building boom. There was no boom. In fact, the Desert Lakes development, for example, looked like a ghost town with all the sale and foreclosure signs poxing the blighted community. Their rate was \$35.00 when we moved here in 2003. By the time of this meeting, the rates had crept to \$49.00. The figure they were shooting for in 2009 was \$90.00, almost a 100% jump. There were senior citizens sobbing that they would have to sell or relinquish their homes. Others said their Social Security would not cover this burden. They were booed out of the El Rio Country Club meeting room by the unexpected four hundred residents who came to show their displeasure.

My husband and I live in the Sun Valley Estates, across from Desert Lakes. Across the street from us is Tribal Reservation land, and the residents, one block away are Tribal sewer customers. Their rate is \$30.00 per month. If the Fort Mohave Indians can run their plant on \$30, the same rate back in 2003, what's Epcor's *real* reason for needing an increase?

Unfortunately, the AZ Corp. Comm. wasn't on the side of the people as they professed to be in the voting booklet. Instead the Corporation gave them an increase of \$7.00. Come to find out, the *real* reason for the increase was to make Arizona American look good to a prospective buyer, Epcor.

Three years ago, I canvassed our neighborhood and collected 31 out of 36 signatures of the residents on just two short cul-de-sacs in Sun Valley Estates. We bundled our petition to deny a rate increase with that of the Desert Lakes community--"there's strength in numbers." I'm recovering from Stage 3B cancer and cannot make the rounds this year, but I have no doubt my fellow neighbors would sign my petition to deny a rate hike again.

At the last election, we scrutinized the voters' pamphlet when considering Commission candidates. Those who said they were for the people were YOU. We're all counting on you to understand us and the state that our government has entrapped us. We are all having a difficult time trusting that our governing people are truly in office to see to our needs. How do we know Epcor isn't planning to sell for a major profit; or build their bottom line to line the pockets of their CEOs with huge bonuses or extravagant soires for their company. While we are doing all we can to conserve our once mighty Colorado River by taking three-minute showers under reduced-flow shower heads and sink faucets; flushing toilets after two uses; removing landscaping and watering only when absolutely necessary, Epcor has probably noticed a great dip in their bottom line. So we, who are doing our best to conserve, are *punished* for trying to save our resources. Please, we need a REWARD for doing the right thing. We're asking each of you Commissioners to be on our side this time. Reward your citizens.

*Thank you for taking the time to read and ponder in your hearts what we are asking of you.*

Sincerely,

Jim & Cheryl Gower  
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